

12 August 2022



Mayor Cr Daniel Moloney and Councillors
Ballarat City Council
25 Armstrong Street South
BALLARAT CENTRAL VIC 3350

6 Parliament Place
East Melbourne
VIC 3002

Email: conservation@nattrust.com.au

Web: www.nationaltrust.org.au

T 03 9656 9818

Via Email

Re: Urgent request to reconsider local heritage protections for Victory House, 742 Geelong Road, Canadian

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I write to you on behalf of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (National Trust) and the National Trust Ballarat and Region Branch with concerns regarding Council's decision of 10 August 2022 to not pursue heritage controls for Victory House at 742 Geelong Road, Canadian, which is currently threatened by redevelopment.

The National Trust is the state's largest community-based heritage advocacy organisation actively working towards conserving and protecting our heritage for future generations to enjoy, representing 40,000 members and supporters across Victoria. The Ballarat and Region Branch is the National Trust's voice in the region.

We have been contacted by members of the community, including the Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc, with concerns regarding Council's decision of 10 August 2022 not to support a motion seeking heritage protection for Victory House, 742 Geelong Road, Canadian as recommended by Council's planning officers and Heritage Advisor.

We are extremely disappointed with this decision, and strongly encourage Council to reconsider this position and seek protection for the place as a matter of urgency. It is Council's responsibility under the *Planning & Environment Act 1987* through the local planning scheme to "ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance"

Moreover, Ballarat's rich heritage, in particular its Goldfields-era heritage, is at the heart of the city's identity, contributing greatly to economic development and community pride. Ballarat is a proud supporter of the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid, yet this decision would see the loss of a significant heritage place in one of the world's best preserved goldrush landscapes. Each individual historic place connects to a broader understanding and appreciation of this important period of world history.

While Chinese individuals, families and communities have played an important role in the region during the goldrush and beyond, places representing Chinese and Chinese-Australian history and heritage are under-represented at both state and local level. We therefore implore Council to seize this opportunity to protect an important part of Ballarat's story.

Victory House is clearly of local significance to the City of Ballarat as a site of great social and historical importance, belonging to the Chung family for over 100 years. Not only did the

Chung family make a strong contribution to the local Chinese and broader community in Ballarat during their time in residence at this property, but Victory House also exhibits social value through its association with the expression of Chinese cultural heritage in Ballarat, and its ongoing significance to the Chinese community in Ballarat. This significance is evident in the fabric of the building as well as its setting in the landscape.

The National Trust supports the original recommendation by Council's planning officer in the strongest possible terms, and we urge Councillors to urgently reconsider heritage protections for this important property through the planning scheme.

I welcome you to contact Felicity Watson, our Executive Manager, Advocacy, on 9656 9802 or at felicity.watson@nattrust.com.au if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Ambrose', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Ambrose
Chief Executive Officer
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

CC: Dianne Gow, President, National Trust Ballarat and Region Branch
Charles Zhang, President, Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc.